Tour of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer and the Travelling Allowance drawn.

110. **Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform the total amount of T. A. bills drawn by the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, during the last 2 years;

(2) will they also be pleased to state for how many days in the last 2 years the Medical and Sanitary Officer was in camp?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(1) Rupees 2,093-12-0.

(2) Two hundred and twenty-one days.

Irregular contracts.

111. **Mr. A. B. Salem.**—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there were, or are, any contractors in the Medical Department who have been given contracts and from whom deposit money was not taken before the contracts, and (b) whether any deposit money from any contractor was taken in instalments from monthly bills due to the contractor for supplies; if so, (c) will the Government be further pleased to state the reasons for such deviations;

(2) will the Government be further pleased to state whether contractors have been changing contracts to others; if so, in how many cases such changes were effected and the reasons for such changes may also be stated?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(1) (a) There were and are contractors from whom deposit money has not been taken.

(b) Yes.

(c) No deviation. This was introduced for the first time amongst contractors of dietary articles as a security against default.

(2) Yes.

In two instances during the current year with the approval and sanction of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer. Their inability to carry on.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Why were contracts given without the deposit money as per the terms of tender?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Let the question be put definitely. I have already said that contracts are given without deposit money. It was already there. It was in vogue.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Why was the deviation made?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It is answered. 'No deviation. This was introduced for the first time amongst contractors of dietary articles as a security against default.' We

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